(vii) A scheme has been initiated to give assistance to cluster of small scale industrial units for setting up common effluent treatment plants.

Programme for reservation of biosphere

1878. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up a programme to reserve biosphere;

(b) whether Government have formulated any guidelines thereon for the Eighth Plan; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Biosphere Reserve Programme has been launched in 1986 with the objective to preserve the biodiversity in representative ecosystems; to conserve the genetic integrity of plants, animals and micro-organisms; to promote research on ecological conservation; to provide facilities for people-environment interaction and to provide opportunities for people's paricipation in achieving these objectives. The guidelines prepared for the 8th Plan relate to management activities such as eco-development demonstration projects for ecologically appropriate forestry, social forestry, medicinal plants, horticulture and development of conservation plans for key species, social welfare activities, etc. For research and development, priority areas have been identified in the areas of land use including agriculture and horticultural practices, socio-economic aspects of human settlements, population dynamics of both plant and animal species and their inter-relationships, restoration aspects of endemic, rare and endangered plant and animal species in their original habitants, etc. Specific activities related to education, awareness and training programmes have also been identified.

Aid for pollution control

1879. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that World Bank has sanctioned $ 1.56 billion aid for control of pollution;

(b) whether control of industrial effluents in the river Damodar and its tributaries are covered therein; and

(c) whether flood-handling capability of Bihar is likely to be part of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The Government of India has entered into an agreement for financial assistance of about US $ 155 million from the World Bank, for industrial pollution control.

(b) The Project includes a scheme to provide loans for the setting up of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) in clusters of small-scale industrial units, and to large and medium scale industrial units in eight selected sectors, for setting up and upgradation of treatment systems throughout the country. Industries located alongside the river Damodar and its tributaries can also avail the loan under these schemes.

(c) No, Sir.

Afforestation projects in Rajasthan and Haryana

1880. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Japan is financing afforestation projects in Rajasthan and Haryana;

(b) whether there is any similar programme for afforestation in the Chhotanagpur plateau of Bihar; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Japan is providing assistance for the pro-